

DRAFT MEETING NOTES

Child Protection Accountability Commission July 10, 2002 9:00 a.m.

Those in attendance: Lynne Howard, CPAC chair; Gwendoline Angalet represented by Peggy Timko; Mary Lou Edgar, Interagency Council on Adoption; Pete Feliceangeli, DOJ; Carlyse Giggins, DFS; John Humphrey, CAC; Janice Mink, Grassroots Citizens for Children; Commissioner Pat Stewart, Family Court; Roger Blevins, CPRB; Mary Ball Morton, OCM; Linda Wolfe, DOE; M.C. Landis, OCA; Anne Pedrick, OCA; Frances Pullella, OCA; Celeste Bishop, OCA; Anthony DiEgidio, OCA; Nicole Tomlin, OCA; Candace Charkow, DFS; Joseph Smack, DFS; James Apostolico, DOJ; Laura Miles, DFS; Nancy Widdoes, DFS; Detective Claudia Malone, Domestic Violence & Sex Offender Team; Lt. Mark Daniels, Delaware State Police Domestic Violence Unit.

- I. **Minutes** from May 22, 2002 unanimously approved.
- II. **Legislative Subcommittee/Roger Belvins** – Roger distributed a document which summarized SB 385 w/ sa 1, SB 365 w/ sa 1, SB 351, SB 239 w/ sa 1 & ha 1 & 2, SB 195, SB 149 w/ sa 1, SB 115, HB 604, HB 528 w/ ha 1 & 2 & 3, sa 1 & 2 & 3; HB 458, HB 239 w/ ha 1 & proposed sa 1 & sa 2, HB 198, and HB 159 w/ ha 1.
- III. **Division of Family Services Update/Carlyse Giddins** – Carlyse distributed a packet of information that included updated statistic. The investigation intake statistics for fiscal years 2001 and 2002, as well as, the investigation and treatment monthly averages were discussed. During the discussion of the SB 142 Positions and Caseloads, Lynne asked whether they are having trouble finding people to fill vacancies. Carlyse is not having trouble recruiting people. Pat Stewart proposed lateral moves for employees with no pay change. Janice Mink raised the question if there is an influx of calls at the end of the school year. Carlyse suggests that there is not. Percentages of initial investigation and treatment contacts on time, worker turn over, and worker experience in investigation and treatment were also presented. Carlyse's goal is to have a 10% turnover for all workers. Next, Carlyse discussed the highlights from fiscal year 2002. Carlyse noted that CMH is assisting DFS with training; for example, sending staff to Maine to “train the trainer” for more skill in investigating sexual abuse cases. Also, she was pleased to announce the grand opening of the first group home in Sussex. People's Place II will run this home for a maximum of eight girls aged 13 to 17 who have severe emotional problems. Carlyse discussed continuing the Governor's Foster Care Taskforce recommendations. The Foster Care Board increases for Levels 3, 4, and 5 will be based on parents' competency as opposed to children's behaviors. There is \$8,000 in the budget for foster parent recruitment. Lastly, she talked about the Community Based Early Intervention Program. The six members in the Early Intervention Unit

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were previously with CMH. The program is not all DFS driven. They have sent out literature to community centers and have been communicating with Family Court judges. However, no schools have been informed as of yet. Childcare centers will be allowed to make referrals, but Carlyse knows that the unit will become overwhelmed very quickly. Their goal is to keep kids and families out of Departmental custody.

- IV. **OCA Update/ M.C. Landis** – The Administrative Assistant posting closed on July 3, 2002. The office anticipates filling the position by September 1, 2002. With the Children's Justice Act Grant, the office has hired Celeste Bishop as a part time Family Crisis Therapist assisting Angela Fowler, Deputy Child Advocate downstate. The office has four law clerks for the summer, as well as prospects waiting for the fall semester to intern. Currently there is a shortage of pro bono attorneys, although, OCA has three upcoming trainings that should help alleviate the situation temporarily. Because the office does not have an office manager at this time, complete statistics could not be handed out. But at this time there are 24 children awaiting appointment. Anne Pedrick received the Healthy Delaware Hero Award in April for the area of anti-violence. There was a regional youth summit in Philadelphia that Mary Catherine Landis, Deputy Child Advocate attended along with Secretary Cari DeSantis and other key partners on how to better serve Delaware's adolescent population. There is a follow up meeting in August from which goals will be presented at the next meeting. M.C. announced that there is now downstate office space Treadway Towers and that the website is currently in progress.
- V. **Foster Care Subcommittee/Janice Mink** - Janice distributed a document with the committee's suggestions. Information from the recommendations will be tracked and a report will be generated.
- VI. **Interagency Committee on Adoption/Mary Lou Edgar** – Mary Lou presented a letter to all members prior to the meeting which she proceeded to read at the meeting. This summarized her plea to try to begin a subcommittee, much like the Foster Care Committee, discussing the issue of neglect and child well-being, and whether there is sufficient focus on this area. A vote was taken whether or not CPAC should develop a subcommittee as part of this Commission. Lynne noted that the first focus will be where to start and who should be members of the subcommittee. It was voted upon unanimously to support the subcommittee. Lynne and Mary Lou will meet to flesh out a path forward.
- VII. **Family Court/Commissioner Pat Stewart** – Commissioner Stewart was pleased to announce the move of Family Court in August to the new courthouse. By end of August, Family Court should be fully functional.

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- VIII. **Children's Advocacy Center/John Humphrey** – John states that there were concerns about finances. However, there was a full increase in funding which will keep two sites open. By July 22, 2002, there will be final votes on grants for the third center in Dover. He hopes that with facilities spread throughout the state, it will cut down on driving time significantly for those professionals involved in the CAC interviews.
- IX. **Department of Justice/Pete Feliceangeli** – Currently there are five Deputies who represent DFS. Pete noted that Carlyse was able to find money to fund three more deputy positions as of July 1, 2002. The positions will be filled by September.
- X. **Law Enforcement/Claudia Malone** – The Community Education Task Force has broken off into two subcommittees: (1) Society Education on Sex Offenders and (2) Unified Police Notification for Registered Sex Offenders. They had started a “repeat call” study. Included with this study are packets that will be prepared for DFS. Thus, when a detective goes to a home three or more times and a child is present, detectives will present this packet to DFS.

Next Meeting date will be October 9, 2002 at 9:00 a.m.